

General Statement

For the 4-H Program to be successful in enriching the lives of young people requires competency on behalf of all levels of the Extension organization. This compilation reflects the efforts and program skills of all segments contributing to the 4-H Program.

Stimulate Personal Growth and Development State Events

Two major statewide activities provide incentives for youth development in subject matter skills and communication methods. These are District Activity Days and the North Carolina 4-H Congress.

Activity Days were successfully held in all seven districts. Participation in demonstrations and skill events totaled 1,336 with the involvement of 4,498 youth and adults. Both levels were an increase over 1974. The 35 areas included a variety of skill events to subject matter demonstrations. New in 1975 was the Dairy Bowl.

The North Carolina 4-H Congress provides the means for 4-H members to relate to the program, develop communication skills, attend interest classes and participate in educational programs. Held on the N. C. State University campus the event develops self confidence, provides recognition and provides an avenue for career exploration. Key programs of the 1975 Congress centered around the Bicentennial program stressing American heritage - pride in past achievements but above all dedication to a new century for America.

State 4-H Council Zoo Project

A unique teaching method of leadership, service and purpose was undertaken by the 36 member State 4-H Council. Under the leadership of state and district officers

they undertook a statewide service project to raise money for an animal at the new N. C. Zoo in Asheboro. Stressing voluntary 4-H participation only and using county leadership and ingenuity the group raised \$10,175 to purchase three rare African oryxes for the N. C. Zoo. The activity provided a leadership forum for hundreds of members, taught service above self and developed a statewide esprit de corps resulting in cooperation and enthusiasm.

Resident Camping Program

The summer resident 4-H camping program continues to provide one of our most effective means of development of young people. Over 6,000 campers participated in a six-day organized resident camp program at one of the five state 4-H camps under cooperative direction of the state 4-H staff and county personnel. This included junior and senior teen camps and forestry and natural resources camps. About 15,000 campers were involved in other camps organized and conducted by the county Extension agents. These were of one to five day duration and included day camps, 4-H EFNEP camps, week-end encampments, etc.

The camping programs at the resident state 4-H camps operated with a basic staff of a camp director, six to eight program counselors and maintenance and food personnel. Opportunities provided at these camps include the teaching of skills in swimming, canoeing, water skiing, sailing, horsemanship, archery, riflery, handicrafts and landsports. In addition, educational programs are conducted in ecology, electricity, and etiquette. Campers participated in vesper programs, flag ceremonies, group singing, social recreation, talent programs, cook-outs, overnight campouts, etc.

Outpost Camping

Outpost camping was added to the N. C. 4-H Program in 1975 with the addition of state operated Anita-Alta 4-H Camp and Currituck County operated Camp Coleman. Stressing outdoor skills the camps teach self confidence and reliance, outdoor crafts and appreciation for nature and the environment.

Camping for Youth in EFNEP

Camping continues to be a very popular method for nutrition education and youth involvement in North Carolina's 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. County staffs have organized and conducted camping experiences ranging in length from one to five days. Most of these are conducted in local facilities and through mobilization of community resources. Although the county food nutrition and 4-H agents have taken the leadership in planning and implementing the camping program, one of the major results was the total involvement of the county staff. The area EFNEP agents developed the nutrition education content and trained aides to present it in the camp setting.

CHANGES AND ADAPTIONS TO MAKE 4-H MEET THE NEEDS OF MORE YOUTH

The 4-H Expansion Program

The 4-H program assistants (paraprofessionals) have boosted enrollment and participation in the counties now engaged in the 4-H expansion effort. The program assistants act as a link between 4-H agents and volunteer leaders. By increasing communication and conducting organization efforts, the program assistants release agents for educational planning and programming creating a more innovative and exciting 4-H program.

Support of the program has been demonstrated by continued support by local governing units of the counties in which the program has been implemented. Additional program assistants have been placed in nine additional counties as a result of this local cost share funding. The expansion program features a 4-H/ community development and urban thrust dependent upon the county and community situation and needs.

Action and Adventure

This innovative program developed in Ohio through special needs funding has been replicated in North Carolina for three years. Summer 4-H program assistants trained by Extension agents involve teenage youth as teachers of disadvantaged youth. Program leadership provided by state and county field staff have developed short term projects